

The

China



Mail.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 22d MARCH, 1866.

PRICE, \$15 PER ANNUM.

GREAT BRITAIN.

ARCH, 1866.

VOL. XXII. No. 1101.

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SHANGHAE.

	Tea lbs.	Silk lbs.
hush.	933,800	
	697,600	
	946,300	
	1,126,300	
	864,600	
rou. (H'kow)	848,900	
south. (do.)	1,093,900	
	297	
	850,400	
	1,181,400	
	999,600	28
choleson.	1,182,800	
	746,800	20
om Hawkow,	612,400	
do.,	1,093,600	
	865,900	
	668,500	
	1,018,300	
	872,300	
from Hawkow	678,500	
do.,	952,100	
	868,500	
	957,	
	319,500	
	771,300	
n Hawkow,	818,500	134
do.,	530,900	
	836,300	
	909,600	
lost Oct. 1)	272	
(from H'kow),	1,031,400	
	1,130,300	171
	1,067,100	
	627,700	
	773,600	169
astle, (f. H'kow)	868,200	
	399,400	
	1,344,200	
o Ocean,	908,400	
	573,100	
om Kuklung,	445,200	
do.,	883,400	76
	923,600	
	1,273,300	
	1,051,900	
	860,400	
	944,100	
	939,500	
	845,500	
	495,400	
	1,186,500	
	1,435,200	
	1,165,800	
	429,9000	
	1,248,700	
	863,100	
	861,600	
	48,768,800	1,167

JAPAN.

817,100	67
900,000	
193,300	
312,500	
89,300	
1,812,200	67

TOTAL.

Tea lbs.	Silk lbs.
65, in 134 vessels, 109,483,100	49,014
65, in 160 vessels, 112,500,700	86,099
crese.	3,017,600
crese.	22,915

Spanish Dollars; Six Months, to be advanced. Subscriptions will be given a month before the expiry of the
Dollar; each additional Line, Twenty
"Notice of Firms" will be continued,
directed.

Subscribers to the Weekly Paper, Eight
er, Twelve Dollars.
ward Street. Swallow, Drawn & Co.
H. Fogg & Co. Manila. C. Karuth
all who infringe the laws of coolie emi-

gration. Since our last issue, we have heard of another mutiny at Batavia on board the coolie ship *Josephine Almira*, one of the finest ships employed in the coolie trade; full particulars have not come to hand, but we hear that several of the coolies were shot by the captain and officers.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

Our news from the North is literally nil; it is a pity that arrangements are not made by which we might get news regularly from Shanghai; for as a general rule three or four steamers arrive in the course of a couple of days, and then we are left for five or six more without advice. The past week has not afforded any very exciting incidents, as regards home or colonial news.

We are glad to see that the Naval authorities are fitting up some of the spare gunboats laying off the dockyard, and we hope before long, to see a small squadron of them steaming out of the harbour on a cruise against those pests the pirates who hardly leave us a week without having some audacious outrage to record. We have frequently heard the senior naval officer,—Captain Nolloth—blamed for having so few gunboats in commission, but perhaps people are unaware that he has not absolute discretion in the matter, and we believe that it was only by means of the strongest representations that the Admiralty were induced to allow more gunboats to be commissioned. This is one improvement on the part of the Imperial government, and we now call for assistance from the Colonial legislature so that piratical junks may be prevented from entering the harbour, except in tow of a gunboat. Attention has already been called to this subject in our Evening issue in which we published a copy of a Government Notification of the year 1844, which expressly states that all junks and boats shall be registered, and shall, on entering the harbour, be boarded by the harbour authorities. It is a great pity that this regulation was repealed, for if carried out we should not deserve the scandal which now attaches to the colony of allowing armed junks to anchor off Green Island or West Point and quietly "spot" vessels as they sail out of the harbour. The legislative council have no need to draw out a new ordinance to meet the difficulty, for the Government Notification in question, issued by Sir HENRY POTTERING when Governor, and dated 2nd March 1844, embraces every point of the case.

The sanitary state of the Colony at present forms a very fit subject for discussion and examination, and a very interesting report of the medical board which sat in 1864, has appeared in our contemporary's columns. Although not publicly announced, we believe a Sanitary Commission has been formed, to consider the best steps which can be taken to improve the sanitary condition of the Colony, and we should strongly recommend the Commission (with Sir RICHARD at its head,) to commence by taking a walk to the block of Chinese houses below Tank Lane, and inspecting olfactory the picturesque but open drain which flows down the hill, and which wafts anything but "breezes from Araby" to the inhabitants of Caine and Robinson Roads. From these they might visit the Thieves quarter in Taipinghan, and the purloins of the Gap. These places are no doubt unknown to two-thirds of the inhabitants of the colony, but we think it right to point out the dens and drains, which make us all gasp and sicken during the warm weather.

Some further discussion has taken place with respect to the Coolie trade in general, and particularly that from Macao; another victim to coolie outrages on board the emigrant ships, has gone to his last home since our last issue, viz: the Captain of the *Hongkong*. A correspondent writing to us from Macao, tells us that he has visited the barracks, and that they are light, airy, and comfortable, and that the inmates are under no manner of restraint; we imagine that the faults of the system lie deeper than this, and that in many instances even if no kidnapping takes place false representations are freely made use of, to induce the Chinese to engage themselves as emigrants; our correspondent also states, that the Governor of Macao, is doing all in his power to bring to justice, and punish all who infringe the laws of coolie emi-

gration. The effects of which we are now suffering and suffering severely. We allude to the stone cutting nuisance; how is it that contractors, whether working for the government or for private individuals are permitted to have their stone shaped in the public thoroughfares. From morning till night for many a long year, the neighbourhood of Wyndham street has never yet been free from this nuisance. The click of the stonemasons chisel and the dull unmaimed thud of his iron headed hammer has been every minute in our ears. If they had only been drilled to strike in time and together it would be endurable. Our ears might become accustomed to, perhaps, eventually pleased by the monotonous regularity of the stroke. But as it is, it is unbearable even by a less sensitive organisation; there is no necessity for the stone being cut, or faced on the ground where it is required for use; it might as well be carried there after being prepared in the neighbourhood of the quarry as before. There is some saving we presume to the contractors by the method adopted, but we see in this no reason why such an intolerable nuisance should be borne with, and we therefore protest against it thus publicly on the ground of its being an unendurable and by no means necessary nuisance both to ourselves and others.

If General Guy was not considered capable of controlling the local, financial, and other details of his command, why we have sent him? We are well assured that he, if left to his own judgement, would never have made so prodigious a blunder; but he, like all other public officers holding high and important positions, is fettered, hampered, and controlled by persons who have neither experience to enlighten them, or talent to guide them in the administration of important affairs.

It was to this miserable redtapery that the greatest misfortunes of the late Crimean campaign were justly attributed. It is to the same incomprehensible influence that all the failures and errors of modern days, as regards our soldiers and sailors are traced. Incompetency accompanied by irresponsibility appears to be the primary qualification of too many in lofty places. In the case under consideration a comparatively small sum is involved; but extend the glorious principle, and multiply the amounts to be lavished upon empty air run riot in expence, and revel in squandering, give reins to the humour of those who, having no account to render, possess the power to order and the will to enforce obedience—let them have it all their own way, nor stay them in their wild career, and we shall soon see increasing estimates, calling for corresponding taxation, and producing wide spread dissatisfaction.

It may be thought by some that we are exaggerating and making capital out of a small matter; we deferentially submit that such is not the case. We have no desire to become alarmists, nor are we ambitious of making much of an insignificant blunder but we feel it our duty as journalists to point out a fact which illustrates a delusive theory, and to condemn that theory as impracticable, ineffectual, unjustifiable and absurd.

Locally the subject may not interest a large circle, but our local character is of a temporary nature only; we are Englishmen and are each of us hoping to return to the land of our birth at no very distant period;

therefore all that affects home must necessarily affect us, as prosperity at home is prosperity to us, and mismanagement at home

extends its baneful results to us here even now, and will influence us much more nearly when we return.

We do hope that some thorough and effectual change will shortly be made in the management of these matters, for the interests of justice, expediency, and the prosperity of the colony as well as that of our home tax-payers.

Our readers will probably recollect that some short time ago a rumour was in circulation that Prussia intended to take possession of Formosa. Popular belief as to the truth of this report was at one time very strong, and it has died away, more from the absolute want of evidence as to its authority, than from any strong official disclaimer on the part of the Prussian government or its representatives. The statement such as it was, however drew public attention to the naval power of Prussia and other Germanic states in these seas, and so far from any jealousy having been exhibited of the small force she has at times stationed on this coast, most people have united in condemning the policy which has left the protection of the large number of small craft sailing under German flags, to British men-of-war.

Under these circumstances we feel bound to call the attention of our readers to the waste of money involved, not so much on account of the actual amount, but as an illustration of the system which places it in the power of a War Office clerk to issue orders of an imperative nature, from the duo observance of which there is no escape on the part of the local authorities, and which orders involve a reckless, ridiculous and wasteful expenditure of public money. The five officers we have alluded to will receive for the current quarter a sum amounting in the aggregate to £135 sterling or nearly at the rate of £650 per annum, representing at 5 per cent interest, a capital of about £11,000. The sum is perhaps not great, but the principle involved in one of immense importance. Surely if we have a Major General placed in command of the forces in this country it is competent for an officer of his high rank and grave responsibility to arrange all

local matters according to the best of his judgement, and the requirements of the service as known to him. Surely he must be better acquainted with the actual wants and necessities of a station like this than any person at home can possibly be. But centralization of power is just now a pet theory —, and its unfortunate results are serious loss and great inconvenience.

If General Guy was not considered capable of controlling the local, financial, and other details of his command, why we have sent him? We are well assured that he, if left to his own judgement, would never have made so prodigious a blunder; but he, like all other public officers holding high and important positions, is fettered, hampered, and controlled by persons who have neither experience to enlighten them, or talent to guide them in the administration of important affairs.

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followed on them, if made, is a very obvious fact.

We do not of course allude to Hongkong itself, over the harbour of which we are naturally presumed to exercise a proper surveillance, but to the whole district between the open ports on the China coast, and the not less dangerous seas to the southward of Hongkong. The necessity for a more complete and numerous squadron of vessels for the efficient superintendence of so vast an area has been frequently commented upon by residents in China of every nationality; and when it is considered how large a proportion of sailing vessels are chartered under the flags of Prussia, Bremen, Hamburg and other German states, it cannot be thought unreasonable to expect that they should bear some of the trouble and expense involved in freeing the China seas of pests which international law defines to be the "enemies of mankind at large."

However willing the British Government may be that their vessels should perform this species of police duty, no fleet of the size we are likely to dispatch to this part of the world will be sufficient to maintain a thoroughly efficient watch over so long a line of sea coast, nor, must it be forgotten, does the abolition of piracy depend upon the gallant but necessarily spasmodic actions which have of late been so successfully fought by the *Opossum*, *Grasshopper*, and other vessels of their class. The destruction of nine junks did little now-a-days to break up the system which may be almost said to be acted upon by every thing floating which is built, manned, and armed by Chinese.

The most decisive action is necessary on the part of the various Ministers now resident at Peking, so as to insist upon, and secure the hearty co-operation of the Chinese officials at the ports, as well as the skill and energy of naval commanders whose good services are often nullified by the action of the mandarins; and that the German states will take steps to act in concert with ourselves and others on so important a matter, is to be desired both for the sake of their own characters as well as the interests of their countrymen.

EXCURSION INTO THE KWANG-TUNG PROVINCE.

Excursion into the Kwang-Tung Province.

Next morning fowls had been caught, and other preparations made for preparing a breakfast; Chou-fai-shan and others were standing near the house, probably enjoying the prospect; it was market day, and scores of people were pouring from every direction with their burdens of produce, and among them there appeared two or three stalwart braves, of the Hakka force entitled 大同 Tai-tung-kwan, the Great United Army, a force no doubt as ready for deeds of pillage as of warfare. They are described as large men, dressed in strong

this artillery possessed one good qualification, viz., that it was not defensible; perhaps it was in consideration of our nervous system, that only half charges of coarse powder were used, and no wadding. The officers were unarmed, except with the moral weapon—a long coat, and a red tasseled cap. After entertaining us in desultory style for a quarter of an hour in quarrelling about the cost of the ferry, the army "marched easy" away.

NOTES FOR TOURISTS IN THE NORTH OF CHINA.

AER. X.

The most important objects of interest to visitors are nearly all situated to the North of the Capital. A few which we will now proceed to notice lie in other directions. To the South, the *Nan-hai-tze*, or Southern park, is a large enclosure used by former Emperors as a hunting ground. Strangers are not admitted, but there are some pretty rides to be taken in the immediate vicinity. It is 40 li or about 13 miles in diameter and contains four buildings for the accommodation of the Emperor and suite.

On the Western side of Peking are several temples and burial grounds which though worth visiting, if in the neighbourhood, do not call for any particular description. The cemetery near them is pretty, and those who are fond of riding will do well to take their horses in this direction. The *Tien-ting-sse*, situated outside the N.W. angle of the Chinese city wall is a favorite residence with foreigners during the heat of summer. It is distinguished by a lofty thirteen storied pagoda.

On the Eastern side is a temple called the *Jih-tan* somewhat like the *Tien-ting* before described. A place called the *Huang-mu-chang* contains an enormous block of wood 120 feet long by about 6 feet in breadth and width, and is thought much of by the Chinese. There is also at no great distance from this an aged tree which will contain more than 30 huu in its hollow trunk. It is known as the *Chin-chu-sung*.

Immediately outside the *An-ting-men* (in the North wall) are situated the Lamatemple called *Hei-su* and *Huang-su*. The latter is said by the Chinese to have been a residence of one of the early Emperors but the statement is unlikely. This temple contains a piece of sculpture known as the *Han-po-yu* which, during the late war attracted the particular attention and admiration of Lord Elgin.

The plain between this and the Walls of Peking is the drill ground of the Imperial troops. The drill as a rule takes place early, 5 o'clock being the usual hour.

Before proceeding to mention the most remarkable temples &c., which are to be seen to the Northward of Peking it will perhaps be as well to notice the most celebrated spot (in the eyes of foreigners at least) which the province of Chih-boats—*Yuen-ming-Yuen*. To give the reader some idea of its former magnificence it may be interesting to quote Dr Williams' description which as far as one can now judge was tolerably correct.

The park of *Yuen-ming-yuen* i.e. (Round and Splendid gardens), so celebrated in the history of the foreign embassies to Peking, lies about eight miles north west of the city, and is estimated to contain twelve square miles. The country in this direction rises into gentle hills, and advantage has been taken of the natural surface in the arrangement of the different parts of the ground, so that the whole presents every variety of hill and dale, woodlands and groves interspersed with canals, pools, rivulets and lakes, the banks of which have been thrown up or diversified in imitation of the free hand of nature. Some parts are filled, groves and tangled thickets occur here and there, and places are purposely left wild in order to contrast the better with the highly cultivated precincts of a palace, or to form rural pathways to a retired summer-house. Barrow says there are no less than thirty distinct places of residence for the Emperor and his Ministers within this park, around which are many houses occupied by eunuchs and servants, each constituting a little village. The principal hall of audience stands upon a granite platform, and is surrounded by a peristyle of wooden columns upon which the roof rests; the length is one hundred and ten feet, the breadth forty two, and the height twenty. Within the outer colonnade is another serving for the walls of the room, having intercoloniations of brick work about four feet high, and lattice-work covered with oil paper, so contrived as to be thrown open in pleasant weather. Above the lattices, but between the top of the columns and going around the hall, is an elaborately carved frieze gaily decorated; the ceiling, also, is whimsically painted, and corresponds to the inclination of the roof. The throne stands in a recess at the head of the hall, and is made of wood beautifully carved. The general appearance of this and other buildings in this inclosure is shabby, and neglected in so changeable a climate soon destroys all the varnish and woodwork upon which the Chinese bestow their chief pains.*

In its present state the traveller will be struck with the thorough demolition effected by the troops “not one stone being left upon another” in many places, to quote the old saying.

Those who wish to visit this gigantic memorial of Chinese perfidy—as it may now be well called—must be careful to ask for *Wan-shou-shan* and not for *Yuen-ming-yuen* as that portion of the grounds open to the visitor is known by the former name. *Yuen-ming-yuen* proper is now closed, and parts of it are even said to be inhabited by persons attached to the Court. It will however require the work of a lifetime to restore this once magnificent palace to its former grandeur. Admittance to *Wan-shou-shan* is obtained by civility and bribes, as is usual in most parts of China; for a large party a dozen or one dollar to the gate-keeper is expected though if nothing be given no objection can be raised, the latter proceeding however acts badly for future visitors, a consideration which we fear has not always its due weight with British tourists.

The Coup d’œil from the top of the hill is perhaps as beautiful as ever, and is well worth the toil of the ascent.

The temples, &c., most worth visiting to the Northward we shall give some slight descriptions; of the others we can only say that they are pleasant places to visit with a picnic party, but present no very special objects of interest to call for a more extended notice. It is impossible under present circumstances to give particulars of the roads, inns, &c. This information must be obtained on the spot and as few are likely to visit them alone, it will probably be easy

to persuade a resident or one well acquainted with the route to bear them Company.

Ta-Chung-su, * *Hei-jung-tan*, * *Pi-yun-su*, * *Wang-hai-lo*, * *Mian-feng-shan*, *

Other temples worth visiting to the Northward of Peking are.

Wan-shou-su, *Hsi-ling*, *Niang-ning-miao*, *Nau-ling*, *Chuan-tsing-miao*, *Chung-ling*, *Sai-ping-tai*, *Sung-wang-tan*, *Wen-chuan*, *Pa-li-chuan*, *Pei-ling*, *Yu-chi-shan*, &c.

Tung-ting.

Ta-Chung-su is the “great bell temple” a building situated some 3 miles outside the *Tsé-sheng* gate. The bell whence the temple derives its name and fame is said to be the largest hung in existence, being 18 feet in height and about fifteen in diameter.

In the top is a round hole and standing on a gallery which surrounds the huge casting visitors generally amuse themselves with picking down copper cash to the regard crowd below which never fails to collect when “foreign devils” (who are free with their cash) are present. The priests who are as ragged as the others generally speaking, have a dislike to allowing the bell to strike as the attraction of the rain God is supposed to be attended thereby. A few tins however generally overcome their scruples though a remarkable coincidence fell within the knowledge of the writer; some Europeans being requested to desist as they would bring down rain, pooh poohed the idea and left the immense battering ram used to strike the bell heedless of the priests remonstrances. The moment it was struck a sharp shower of rain came down and the party had to acknowledge for once that Buddhism was triumphant.

A few of two tao from each individual is the sum generally expected when a large party visits the *Ta-Chung-su*.

The *Po-yung-kuan* is situated but a short distance to the N.W. of the *Hsi-pien-miao*. A yearly fair is held here, and during its continuance a singular custom prevails of two priests seating themselves under the arch of a bridge and remaining motionless during the entire day while a crowd of all denominations pelt them with copper cash; according to the popular idea a supernatural power prevents their being hit, however careful the aim of those throwing at them. During the time of the writer’s visit a party of Europeans however shook the party of Europeans however shook the difficulty in hitting the living targets merely depended on an arrangement which most boys at school given to playing “egg cap” could have successfully overcome.

The time of this annual ceremony is the 18th and 19th of the first month of the Chinese year i.e., about the end of February.

The *Wang-hai-lo* is the site of a former halting place of the Emperor when proceeding from or to Peking; it derives its name from there having been formerly an extensive artificial lake on one side of the Imperial grounds. It is now dry and its level bed has of late years been used for the amateur races got up by Foreigners, reviews of troops, &c. *Miao-feng-shan* is a small temple situated on a lofty hill some three thousand feet in height at about 30 miles from Peking in a N. West direction. The ascent in some parts is very laborious and there is a certain part of the road called the “*San-pai-lin-shih-po-chou-tien*” i.e., “the 360 elbows”. The actual number of turns is 52, and it requires some courage to ascend in a chair as the natives frequently do, a falter step on the part of one’s bearers being attended with most unpleasant consequences. The view from the temple is very grand but not very extensive, the valley of the *Hun-bo* which is the only low ground visible being shut in by the billy ranges of the *Hsi-shan*.

The temple of *Hei-jung-tan* is well worth visiting both on account of its natural beauties as well as the civility and accommodation which is there to be met with; it is about 17 miles from Peking. Within the walls is a beautiful pool fed by a spring which the name of the temple—“Black Dragon”—is derived. The dragon is said to inhabit this pool and offerings are made to him on the marble terrace and steps by which one descends to the water. At one end of the pool (which is about fifty feet across and forms a magnificent swimming bath) is a small house which is usually let to visitors during the summer months. The presiding deity is the *Lion-wang* or rain God, who, clothed in a yellow robe sits in wooden dignity in the highest part of the temple. The robe is said to have been conferred on his Godship to atone for certain rough treatment which he underwent in the court of *Chien-Lung* as not causing rain to come down when wanted, he was carried off into Mongolia with an iron chain round his neck. Just as his escort arrived at the borders of China rain began to pour down in the most liberal manner, so he was taken back to his old situation in the temple and clothed in a yellow garment from the Emperor’s own wardrobe—an honor which in Chinese eyes fully compensated for any amount of previous ill treatment.

The temple of *Pi-yun-su* is usually considered to be the finest specimen of a Chinese temple to be met with outside of Peking. It is about eight miles outside the North wall and is the “show temple” of the neighbourhood. Travellers are strongly recommended to pay it a visit. Its greatest curiosities are the “Hall of the 500 Lohan” and the representations of the tortures to be undergone in the infernal regions which consist of some thousand figures each about a foot high, inflicting and suffering every torment that the human imagination can conceive.

A couple of rooms ought to be obtained at any of these temples for, at the most eight or ten dollars a month. The Chinese pay much less, but the unfortunately high scale of prices inaugurated by the first residents has led to most extortionate demands on the part of the priests.

The *Shih-san-ling* or 13 tombs of the Ming Emperors are well worth visiting. They are distant about 10 miles from the walls; after riding over some rather rough ground the traveller passes through three detached gateways and comes upon an avenue about two-thirds of a mile in length. On either side of this are sculptured animals and men of colossal size in the following order at about 50 yards distance from each other.—Six men apparently either kings or Priests, two Horses, two Griffins, two Elephants, two Camels and four Lions. Passing these one comes to the largest and most celebrated of the tombs, that of *Tsu-wen* or *Yen-wang*. The shrine is in the centre of an immense hall 220 feet long and 92 feet 8 inches broad supported by 32 pillars (exclusive of those in the walls). Each pillar is 11 feet 4 inches in circumference and the centre ones are about 60 feet high. The ceiling is in good preservation. A second building containing the coffin of the deceased Emperor stands about 50 feet behind the great

hall; it is built on an immense brick mound pierced by a long slanting tunnel which has a most remarkable echo and is moreover a “whispering gallery” These tombs were repaired by *Chien-Lung*, and an inscription near the entrance states the fact.

REVIEW.

THE “JAPAN PUNCH.”*

From the “*Japan Times*.”

Were the Overland Mail a purely Commercial paper, some apology might be thought necessary for this review, but professing as it does to be a summary of “political and general news” as well as a means of giving a digest of Commercial intelligence of the fortnight, to correspondents in other parts of the world, it would be incomplete, were no notice to be taken of such a production, tho’ not of undoubted merit. The *Japan Punch* is a weekly newspaper, the contents of which are to be incomplete, we may perceive, from the first number:

“In one more appearing before the world Mr Punch begs leave to state that he has not been fortunate in his search after Truth, though he has looked for it at the bottom of many wells, he has therefore determined to let well alone and regardless of truth, he regards Silence just, but Speech as silver. Perhaps hereafter, in some other sphere, where the wells are deeper and more abyss than the ocean of history, he may be compelled to speak again, but until then, he will remain silent.”

A strong sense of humour and appreciation of the possible has always been characteristic of the English mind. *Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales* are read by many who never heard of his *Palemon and Aristotle* or the *Boef* and *Boefshank* and *Leech* have successively exercised in the political agitations in which our fathers and ourselves have been engaged, as important an influence on the public mind as the ablest leading articles or the subtlest pamphlets. And now, isolated efforts having been combined, they have culminated in *Punch* and a political engine of great power has been, during twenty years gradually built up by the wit of London, which acts on the national mind with greater force, as appealing more directly to the perceptions of the multitude, than any serious organ of party opinion.

The *Punch-i-no-kami*, not satisfied with caricaturing the sacred persons of the *Emperor*, to the *Japan Times*, even parodies their style, for the above singularly reminds us of our own manifesto. Perhaps too, our readers may recognize in the following a faint resemblance to the style of a writer whose work occasionally appears in these columns:

“FROM THE EVENING MAIL.”
From our Macao Correspondent.

In accordance with my promise I propose to give you some account of my visit to Macao, I reached the *White Cloud* only just in time to save my passage, as I had to jump from the wharf as before it.

So much for the pictorial part of the *Japan Punch*. The text, as must necessarily be the case when only one pen has to do all the work, is very unequal.

Occasionally, the author is excessively happy. We quote the prospectus, from the first number:

“In one more appearing before the world Mr

Punch begs leave to state that he has not been fortunate in his search after Truth, though he has looked for it at the bottom of many wells, he has therefore determined to let well alone and regardless of truth, he regards Silence just, but Speech as silver. Perhaps hereafter, in some other sphere, where the wells are deeper and more abyss than the ocean of history, he may be compelled to speak again, but until then, he will remain silent.”

A strong sense of humour and appreciation of the possible has always been characteristic of the English mind. *Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales* are read by many who never heard of his *Palemon and Aristotle* or the *Boef* and *Boefshank* and *Leech* have successively exercised in the political agitations in which our fathers and ourselves have been engaged, as important an influence on the public mind as the ablest leading articles or the subtlest pamphlets. And now, isolated efforts having been combined, they have culminated in *Punch* and a political engine of great power has been, during twenty years gradually built up by the wit of London, which acts on the national mind with greater force, as appealing more directly to the perceptions of the multitude, than any serious organ of party opinion.

The *Punch-i-no-kami*, not satisfied with caricaturing the sacred persons of the *Emperor*, to the *Japan Times*, even parodies their style, for the above singularly reminds us of our own manifesto. Perhaps too, our readers may recognize in the following a faint resemblance to the style of a writer whose work occasionally appears in these columns:

“A LEADER.”
It was once quaintly remarked by Alcibiades that Jordan was a hard road to travel. Without doubting for a moment the terseness of the aphorism, yet we must state our inability to arrive at any just conclusion concerning this most point. For our own part we should be inclined to think that in muddy weather the road would not be so hard. We add that we should write thus feeling upon this important subject not from any desire to be personal, but from a conviction that the “Sanitary Road Committee” will find much difficulty in causing Ordinance No 4 to be respected especially during the present season for constructing a new road of mud and stones.

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1—MARCH 22, 1866.

No. 1101—MARCH 22, 1866.]

The China Mail.

no one has been more solid than the "coolie scandal" from he has been for some time past, not that he has also been bound by those under his im-

control. But admitting all this,

I point out that the means he has used to be sufficient so long as the system of "cramps," i.e. Chinese procurers or agents, is al-

ienque. The fact that the

"call them 'lodging houses'

and on tender toes—are open

ed, goes for nothing and

owing reasons. Those who

are familiar with the character

of the Chinese—

we except

the immediate neighbourhood

—are, or should be, well

very few except those who

promise of a literary career,

their native village; and that

a journey of over fifty miles,

about the same importance in

as a passage from Rome to

would to such of us as are

to our rapid means of locomotion,

"volunteers" for emi-

nese agents travel through the

as our recruiting officers do,

dazzled the eyes of the Chin-

ians and their friends; with the

gift of a few dollars, send

them to certain coolie emi-

ties. So far nothing is unfair,

assuming that the Chinese agents

are not to blame; the Chinese themselves as-

ser, that the said agents kidnap

coolies sent down to the ports;

have no means of judging ex-

the native proclamations issued

of good repute, but the ques-

tional as regards the point we

are seeking to prove.

ries on arrival at the ports are

to the emigration office, where

by our correspondent, they

present binding themselves to

the countries indicated, and the

of the programme, which is

above board enough, is carried

on the part of the agent.

first difficulty in the matter is

as to the trustworthiness of

agent. No know of a case in

which can be verified by application

to Her Majesty's Consulates on the

certain number of coolies had

left to the British Emigration

a Chinaman employed in the

office, who stated that they

arly come to him and requested

in the way of emigrating; the

able to speak the local patois

questioned the men and find-

everything was apparently as re-

directed them to embark on a

informing them that they would

the bonus, and advance due

in question the agent was in

privately that the Chinese employ

at moment on board "squeez-

ed," so he immediately pro-

with a coustal and caught

the act. A large sum of money

opened by the Chinaman and

when collected amounted

to two hundred dollars. The agent

requested the Captain to summon

the men, and told them, that having

a single coolie could be pre-

pared to speak! and after an hour's

and persuasion, the agent left, taking

with him, which he handed over

to the authorities, while the culprit

initially allowed to go free, as no

acted against him.

Afterwards the agent got hold of

the coolies privately, and asked him

one would speak." "Because,"

the coolie, "whoever did so

have suffered for it; his family

have been ruined," and he then

a good deal which led to addition-

being exercised in receiving men

introduced by another apparent

interested party.

such case could occur under the

regulations, and honorable fulfilment

which distinguishes the agency in

what may occur when "no ques-

tion is asked." The Chinese assert that

men are terrified by the me-

held out by those who have taken

and "voluntarily" sign agreements

ing themselves ready to emigrate

useful if saying "no." They also

that men who have voluntarily

signed, are in a similar way afraid to

act when the time comes for sign-

P. & O. S. N. CO.'S NOTICES.

STEAM TO SWATOW, AMOY,
AND FUHCHAU.
THE P. & O. S. N. CO.'S Chartered Steamship
"YESSO," will have quick despatch for the
above places.

THOS. SUTHERLAND,
Superintendent.

Hongkong, March 22, 1866.

STEAM FOR
SINGAPORE, PENANG, POINT DE GALLE
ADEN, SUEZ, MALTA, MARSEILLES,
AND SOUTHAMPTON;

ALSO
BOMBAY, MADRAS, AND CALCUTTA.
THE P. & O. S. N. CO.'S Steam NAVIGATION COMPANY'S Steamship "OTTAWA,"
Captain Haslewood, with Her Majesty's Mails,
Passenger, Specie, and Cargo, will leave this for the above Places on SUNDAY, the 1st April,
at 9 A.M.

CARGO will be received on board until 5 P.M.

on the 30th Instant SPECIE until Noon on the 31st; and PARCELS until 5 P.M. on the 30th.

CONTENTS AND VALUE OF PACKAGES ARE
REQUIRED.

A Written Declaration of the Contents and
Value of the Packages for the Ocean Route is
required by the Egyptian Government, and must be
delivered by the Consul to the Company's Agents.

At Fuchau, Messrs AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.

At Shanghae, Messrs AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.

At Hankow, H. G. BRIDGES, Esq., at Messrs AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.

At Kiukiang, JOHN PASTORIUS, Esq., at Messrs AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.

At Swatow, Messrs BRADLEY & Co.

At Tientsin, Messrs FERGUSON & Co.

At Bangkok, F. BLACK, Esq., at Messrs AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.

At Saigon, Messrs W. G. HALL & Co.

At Singapore and Penang, Messrs BOUET & Co.

At Manil, Messrs RUSSELL and STURGIS.

At Yokohama, A. O. GAV, Esq., at Messrs AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.

At Rangoon, M. YAB and BASSEIN, Messrs NISBUTH & Co.

Agents at other Ports of China and Japan and
also in India, Europe, and America, will be shortly
established.

Payment for losses will be made wherever an
Agent of the Company exists, in one Month after
proof of loss.

In addition to the usual Brokerage of 10 (Ten)
per cent., a further return of five per cent. upon
the Premium paid will be made to all Insurers with the
Company.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co.

General Agents.

Hongkong, January 17, 1866.

NOTICE.

THE following Packages are still unclaimed, and
are lying at the P. & O. S. N. CO.'S Parcel Room at the risk of the Consignees, who are re-
quested to take immediate delivery.

Captain JACKSON, From Trieste, 1 Box Baggage.

L. D. B. 1638/1, 5 Cases Needles.

Hongkong, March 17, 1866.

NOTICE.

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